

Journey to College



The Missouri Source

Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Journey to College

Deciding what path to take after high school requires careful thought and planning. What kind of career do you want to pursue? What type of education will you need? What kind of college should you attend? How much will college cost, and how will you pay for it?

These are important questions for high school students as well as nontraditional students who are looking to continue their education after time in the workforce or the military.

It's never too early — or too late — to decide to go to college. But when it comes to planning for higher education, the sooner you start, the more options you may have.

Realize your potential — get started today on your journey to reach your education and career goals.

Terms you should know

When planning for education beyond high school, you may come across new words and phrases. Understanding these terms can help you navigate the college application and financial aid processes.

College Financing Offer — A document sent to you by a college indicating the type and amount of financial aid you can receive when you accept admission and enroll in classes at the college. Some colleges may refer to this as a Financial Award Letter.

Cost of attendance (COA) — The total amount it will cost to attend a college, usually stated as a yearly cost. This includes tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

Default — Failure to repay a loan according to the terms agreed to in the Master Promissory Note. For most federal student loans, you will default if you have not made a payment in more than 270 days. You may experience serious legal consequences if you default.

Deferment — A period of time during which a student, under certain conditions, may postpone payment on student loans. During such a period, interest does not accrue on subsidized loans. Unsubsidized loans continue to accrue interest. Any unpaid interest may be added to the principal balance of the loan.

Dependent vs. Independent student — When referring to your financial aid status, a student can be classified as dependent or independent. Dependent students do not meet the federal criteria to be considered an independent student and are required to report parental information when applying for federal and state student aid. See a detailed comparison of *dependent* versus *independent* status on page 20.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) — A number calculated according to a formula established by federal law that is used to determine your eligibility for financial aid. The formula can consider a number of factors including your family's income and assets and the number of family members attending college during the year. It is based on the financial information you provide on the FAFSA. The EFC is reported to you on your Student Aid Report. It is not a bill, nor does it indicate the amount you will owe to the college you plan to attend.

FAFSA — The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used to determine eligibility for federal student aid, such as federal grants, loans, and work-study, and is often the first step to apply for state and institutional aid.

FAFSA4caster — An online tool that provides an early estimate of your federal student aid eligibility to help you financially plan for college. To determine your estimated eligibility, visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov/spa/fafsa4c/>.

Federal Direct Loan — A federal student loan in which eligible students and parents borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education, rather than from private lenders. Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans and Direct Consolidation Loans are all types of Direct Loans. See page 32 for details.

Financial aid package — The total amount of financial aid being offered to you by a college. A school's financial aid staff combines various forms of aid into a "package" to help meet your education costs. The amount of aid offered is detailed in your college financing offer.

Financial literacy — The ability to read, analyze, manage, and communicate about personal financial conditions. The term is often used to describe financial education programs on college campuses and at high schools. Financial literacy programs seek to help students better manage their finances, budget effectively, and borrow wisely. For more information, visit journeytocollege.mo.gov/pay/manage-your-money/.

Financial need — The difference between the cost of attendance at a college and your Expected Family Contribution. While cost of attendance varies from college to college, your Expected Family Contribution does not change based on the college you attend. The Expected Family Contribution may also be used to determine your eligibility for some Missouri state student aid programs.

Full-time student — Taking at least 12 credit hours a semester is considered full time when considering financial aid. However, students should take at least 15 credit hours to graduate on time.

Student stories:

Toni

Hometown: Ferguson, MO

School: St. Louis Community College

Major: Human Services / Social Work

“I’m really consciously planning to do this debt free, getting scholarships and doing everything I can to graduate debt free. When I start making my money, I want to enjoy it.”

Grace Period — The six-months after a student graduates, stops attending college, or drops below half-time enrollment during which he or she is not required to make payments on certain federal student loans.

Grant — Financial aid, often based on financial need, that does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from college and owe a refund).

Homeless — An individual is considered homeless if he or she lacks fixed, regular and adequate housing. You may be homeless if you are living in a shelter, park, motel or car, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent you may be considered homeless when completing your FAFSA form even if your parent would provide support and a place to live.

Institutional aid — Financial assistance funded by a college or career school. Institutional aid usually consists of grants and/or scholarships, but may also include work-study opportunities and loans.

Journey to College — The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development provides information about preparing for education beyond high school through the Journey to College website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, online Monthly Reminder, and free publications. Journey to College programs — Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy and Decision Day — help students plan for college and apply for financial aid.

Loan Servicer — A company that collects payments, responds to customer service inquiries, and performs other administrative tasks associated with maintaining a federal student loan. If you’re unsure of who your federal student loan servicer is, you can look it up at nslds.ed.gov.





Master Promissory Note — A binding legal document that you must sign when you get a federal student loan. It lists the terms and conditions under which you agree to repay the loan and explains your rights and responsibilities as a borrower. It is important to read and save your Master Promissory Note because you may need to refer to it later.

Missouri student aid — Financial aid programs funded by the state of Missouri. Learn more about Missouri student aid on pages 24–28.

National Student Loan Data System — A centralized database that combines your financial aid records from colleges, lenders, and the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, visit nslds.ed.gov.

Net price — An estimate of the actual cost that a student and his/her family need to pay in a given year to cover education expenses for the student to attend a particular school. Net price is determined by taking the institution's cost of attendance and subtracting any grants and scholarships for which the student may be eligible.

Parent (when applying for financial aid) — Your biological and/or adoptive parents, married or not, regardless if they are the same or opposite sex. Even if you do not live with one or both of your parents, if you are considered a dependent student, you still must report certain information about them to qualify for most federal and state financial aid. See more information about who should be considered your parent when completing the FAFSA on page 21.



Part-time student — A student is considered part time if he or she is taking less than 12 credit hours per semester.

Satisfactory academic progress — A school's standard for satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate offered by that institution, measured in time and grade point average. Check with your college to find out its standards.

Scholarship — Money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.

Student Aid Report (SAR) — A summary of the information you submitted on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You receive this report via email a

few days after your FAFSA has been processed or by mail within 7–10 days. If there are no corrections or additional information you must provide, your SAR contains your Expected Family Contribution and basic information about your eligibility for federal student financial aid.

Verification — A student may be selected for verification from the financial aid office after completing the FAFSA. Students will need to provide specified financial documents so the college can verify the information submitted on the FAFSA is correct.

Work-Study — A federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school to help pay your education expenses.



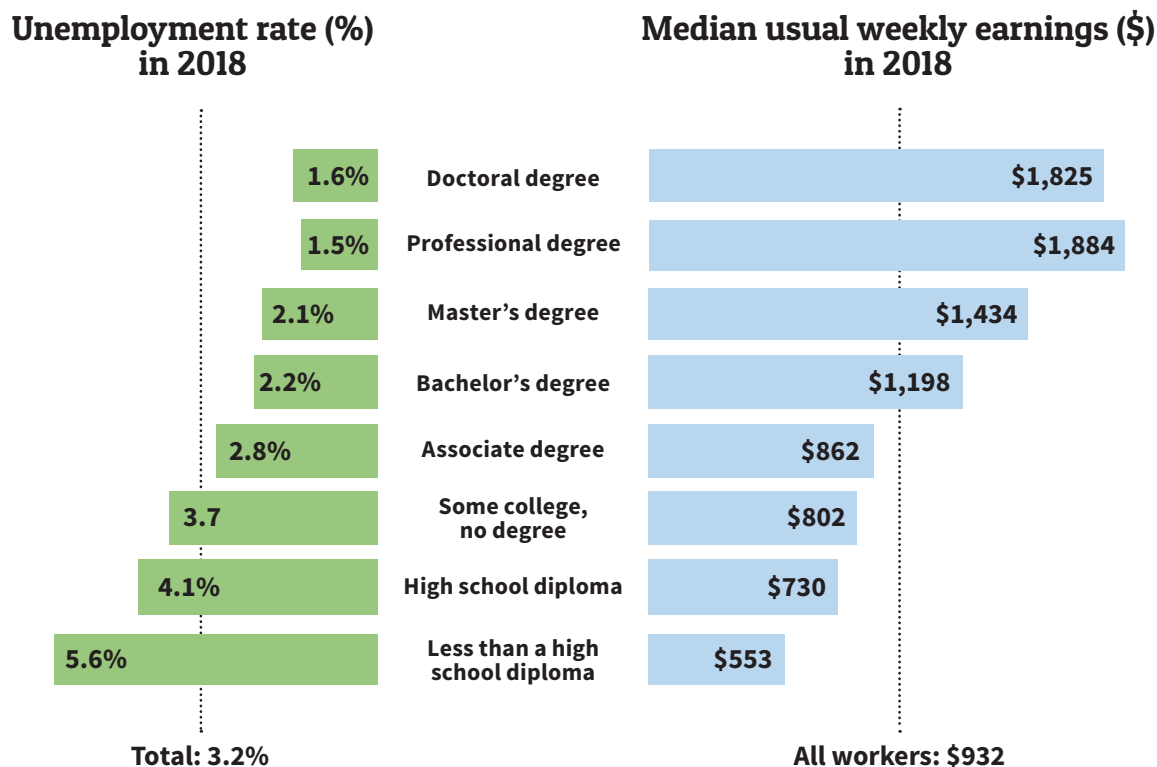
Planning for College

No matter what career path you pursue, there is a good chance you will need some form of higher education. All education beyond high school, whether a short-term certificate, an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or beyond - it all counts as college.

College is a major investment of time, effort, and money, so it is important to be as prepared as possible. The more prepared you are, the more likely you will succeed.

Benefits of higher education

A college degree or certificate can mean more career opportunities and a higher salary. College graduates, on average, earned 56 percent more than high school grads in 2015, according to the Economic Policy Institute.



Note: Data are for persons who are 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



Prepare for the future

Are you ready for college and a career?

Being “college and career ready” means you are prepared to succeed in higher education or pursue a career.

Students who are ready for college have the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to complete entry-level college course work and move on to higher-level courses. Students who are ready for a career are prepared to work toward a specific profession, including completing college or vocational training courses, earning industry certification credentials, or directly entering the workforce.

Recommended high school course work

One of the best ways to prepare for college and a career is to take challenging courses during high school. Be sure to check the specific admissions requirements of colleges you are interested in attending to make sure you earn the high school credits you need. The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development and many of the state’s colleges and universities recommend the following high school course work:

English/Language arts — 4 units	Physical education — 1 unit
Social studies — 3 units	Health education — 0.5 unit
Mathematics — 4 units*	Personal finance — 0.5 unit
Science — 3 units	Electives — 7 units**
Fine arts — 1 unit	

Remedial and corequisite education classes

Working hard in high school is the best way to prepare for college-level courses and a career.

Students who graduate from high school unprepared for some college-level course work may be required to take remedial or developmental education classes to strengthen their skills before enrolling in credit-bearing college courses.

Because remedial education classes do not count as college credit, they can increase the amount of time and money it takes to earn a degree. Many Missouri colleges offer corequisite courses as an alternative to remediation. These corequisite courses offer additional supports for students while they are simultaneously enrolled in the credit-bearing course to provide extra help gaining skills students need to be successful.

Colleges consider a number of factors when determining whether or not a student needs to complete remedial or corequisite education classes. Those factors include a student’s scores on college admissions exams, grade point average in specific high school courses, and other measures.

*The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education currently requires three units of math for high school graduation; however students who take a fourth year of math are often more successful in completing college-level math courses.

9 **Two units of a single foreign language are strongly recommended for college-bound students.

Take the ACT and/or SAT

Almost all colleges require students to take a college admissions exam such as the ACT or SAT. ACT and SAT scores often are paired with your grade point average to determine college admission and scholarship eligibility.

Before you take these tests, prepare yourself to do your best. Learn how the tests are scored and take advantage of free test prep programs. Check out the free ACT (actstudent.org/testprep) and SAT (sat.collegeboard.org/practice) practice test questions and test-taking tips.

If you are not satisfied with your score the first time around, you can retake the tests through June or July of your senior year, depending on the guidelines of the scholarship or college. If you need help paying for the ACT or SAT, ask your counselor about exam fee waivers.

Explore career options

An important part of planning for college is considering the type of career you would like to pursue. Your plans for the future will help determine the type of college you will want to attend and the kind of degree you will need to earn.

Consider all the possibilities

You can learn about hundreds of career options, potential salary levels, and the type of education you will need on the new MoSCORES website (<https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/Search>) or at Missouri Connections (missouriconnections.org). Missouri Connections includes a variety of information, including 16 “career cluster” videos to help you identify areas of interest related to your academic abilities and talents.

What do you want to do?

After you have spent some time exploring options, begin to narrow your choices. Evaluate your knowledge and skills. Think about past experiences and classes you have enjoyed. Consider careers related to the things that interest you the most. Once you have identified several possibilities, find out what kind of education is required.

Learn more

While in high school, take classes that will help you explore potential career options. Job shadowing or internships are a good way to gain a more personal perspective.

Student stories:

Kendyl

Hometown: Jefferson City, MO

School: Missouri State University

Major: Elementary Education

“You do not need that midnight snack at Taco Bell or that super cute shirt at the bookstore. You just have to be smart with your money and think about what you are purchasing. Budgeting is super helpful. Our meal plan for the house stops Friday afternoon so I set up a budget for myself for the weekend. Finding a campus job helps you stay afloat.”

Apply to college

There is no magic formula for choosing the right college. Knowing yourself — your abilities, interests, and goals — can help you find a college that is the best fit for you.

Consider applying to more than one college so you have options when you are ready to make a final decision. Each college has its own admission and scholarship deadlines, so be sure to research those and mark them on your calendar.

Weigh your options

Higher education offers many options — four-year universities, two-year community colleges, and vocational, technical, and trade schools. They all count as college.

You can explore most public and independent colleges in Missouri and the programs they offer at collegesearch.mo.gov.

Make sure the schools you are considering offer the degree you are seeking. Other things to keep in mind include:

- Do you want to stay close to home, or would you rather experience a new community?
- Would you like to attend a large university, or do you prefer a smaller campus?
- Will you need any extra help such as a writing center or tutoring services?
- What kind of housing, transportation, and recreational facilities are available?
- What is the cost, and what kind of financial assistance is available?
- Does the college participate in state and federal financial aid programs?

Get the answers you need

Most colleges and universities provide detailed information on their websites. If you do not find the information you need, contact the college's admissions office to get your questions answered.

College fairs are also a great way to gather information while visiting with multiple college representatives. Be sure to pick up brochures and admissions applications from colleges that interest you.

Visit campuses

One of the best ways to ensure you find a college that is right for you is to visit the campus. Some high schools allow students to take excused absences to go on college visits during the school day.

The campus atmosphere may be your deciding factor in choosing a college.

While visiting:

- Meet with an admissions counselor
- Meet with a financial aid representative
- Attend a class
- Visit a dorm room
- Eat in a dining hall
- Talk with students

If you are unable to physically visit a campus, many colleges offer virtual campus tours online and have representatives at college fairs to answer questions.

Find the best fit

To learn more about finding a college that is the best fit for you, visit journeytocollege.mo.gov/plan/explore-colleges-careers. Use the college fit worksheet on page 12 to compare your top college choices in several key areas or use the fillable pdf online at journeytocollege.mo.gov/college-fit-worksheet.pdf.

Apply Missouri

Many high schools in Missouri host Apply Missouri events in September and October to help seniors submit college admissions applications to colleges they are interested in attending.

To see if your school will be hosting Apply Missouri, visit journeytocollege.mo.gov/apply-missouri/sites. Even if your school does not participate, check out the student resources at journeytocollege.mo.gov/apply-missouri/ for information that can help you apply to college.

Journey to College
Apply Missouri



Learn more about planning for college:

journeytocollege.mo.gov

College fit

There are many factors to keep in mind when choosing the right college for you. Use this chart to compare those factors before making a final decision. Get the online version at journeytocollege.mo.gov/college-fit-worksheet.pdf.

	School 1	School 2	School 3
School name			
School website			
School type (2-year, 4-year, vocational)			
Student body size			
Location, in-state/out-of-state			
School setting (urban, rural)			
Distance from home			
Degree types offered (associate, bachelor's, master's)			
Majors I'm interested in	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Admissions contact	Name: Phone: Email:	Name: Phone: Email:	Name: Phone: Email:
Admission requirements	ACT/SAT: GPA:	ACT/SAT: GPA:	ACT/SAT: GPA:
On-campus housing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Available <input type="checkbox"/> Not available	<input type="checkbox"/> Available <input type="checkbox"/> Not available	<input type="checkbox"/> Available <input type="checkbox"/> Not available
Deposit amount			
Deposit due date			
Campus services open and available during holidays?			
Questions to ask			

Paying for College

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	School code: School deadline:	School code: School deadline:	School code: School deadline:
Estimated cost of attendance			
Available scholarships (institutional and private)	Name: Deadline:	Name: Deadline:	Name: Deadline:
	Name: Deadline:	Name: Deadline:	Name: Deadline:
	Name: Deadline:	Name: Deadline:	Name: Deadline:
Available financial aid (grants, work-study, loans)			
Emergency funds	<input type="checkbox"/> Available <input type="checkbox"/> Not available	<input type="checkbox"/> Available <input type="checkbox"/> Not available	<input type="checkbox"/> Available <input type="checkbox"/> Not available

Services for students

	Available	Not available	Available	Not available	Available	Not available
Career center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer labs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Free tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Math center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On-campus health center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHECKLIST: PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

- ☐ Take challenging courses during high school
- ☐ Do your best to earn good grades
- ☐ Participate in activities that interest you
- ☐ Explore career options
- ☐ Research schools that match your career goals
- ☐ Take the ACT and/or SAT
- ☐ Apply to college early in your senior year



Paying for College

Attending college could be one of the biggest financial decisions you make, but it is an investment in your future. Earning a degree or certificate can help prepare you for the future and provide you with a variety of career options.

Understanding tuition, fees, and other costs, submitting the FAFSA, and learning about state and federal financial aid can help you prepare for higher education expenses.

Consider the cost

The cost of college can vary drastically among schools. Colleges and universities often post tuition and fees on their websites, giving you a good indication of the cost to attend classes. Keep in mind that fees often differ based on the degree program you choose.

Other college costs include room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses. Just like tuition and fees, these expenses vary from college to college.

Don't let the sticker price scare you

Attending college doesn't have to be out of reach due to financial reasons. Cost often depends on the choices you make. The published price for attending college is usually not what students actually pay, and there are many ways to offset the costs of college. About 81 percent of all college students receive some type of financial aid to help cover college-related expenses.

About **81%** of undergraduate students receive some type of financial aid to help pay for college.

Types of financial aid

Financial aid includes scholarships, grants, work-study programs, and loans.

Many students receive assistance from a combination of financial aid programs, all of which will help lower out-of-pocket education costs. Taking advantage of all types of financial aid can be key to helping you complete a degree. To minimize debt, students should accept financial aid in the following order:

- Scholarships are awarded to students based on academic or other achievements and generally do not have to be paid back. Scholarships come from a variety of sources including colleges and universities, businesses, and local civic organizations.
- Grants are most often awarded based on financial need and generally do not have to be paid back.
- Work-study programs provide part-time employment while you are enrolled in college to help offset your educational expenses.
- Student loans include funds loaned to students and sometimes parents from the federal government or private banking institutions. Aside from a few specific forgivable loan programs, all loans are required to be paid back, with interest.

Financial aid programs have varying deadlines and requirements. Make sure you know the deadlines in advance so you don't miss out on an opportunity to apply or renew your financial aid.



Apply for financial aid

Who is eligible for financial aid?

A majority of students are eligible for some form of financial aid. Many scholarships, grants, work-study programs, and loans are available to students of all ages.

Your grades have little to do with qualifying for most financial aid programs. While a high grade point average can help you be admitted into some colleges and qualify for certain academic scholarships, a number of student aid programs do not initially take grades into consideration. That being said, you are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your college, including a specific grade point average, to continue receiving most financial aid.

What is the FAFSA, and why should you file?

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, commonly known as the FAFSA, is the first step to qualify for many scholarships, grants, and student loans.

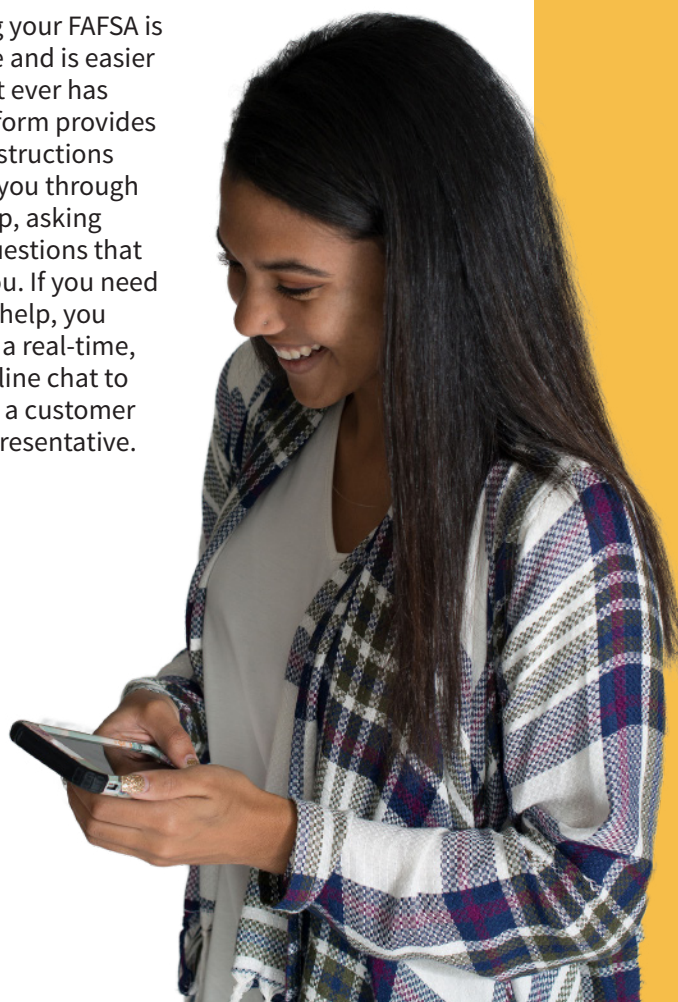
Whether you are a first-time student, a transfer student, or a returning student, you should file the FAFSA every year you plan to attend college.

The FAFSA gives you access to four primary sources of financial aid:

- Federal financial aid
- State financial aid
- Aid from colleges, universities and other postsecondary schools
- Some private scholarships and grants

The information you provide on the FAFSA helps determine the types and amounts of financial aid for which you might be eligible.

Submitting your FAFSA is always free and is easier now than it ever has been. The form provides detailed instructions and walks you through step by step, asking only the questions that apply to you. If you need additional help, you can access a real-time, private, online chat to speak with a customer service representative.



When should you file your FAFSA?

The FAFSA is available each year beginning Oct. 1. You should submit your FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible for the following academic year (see page 19). You do not have to wait to be admitted into college to file a FAFSA. You can list up to 10 colleges on the form, and compare financial aid packages to make a more informed college choice.

The FAFSA priority deadline for the Access Missouri Grant program is Feb. 1 for the following academic year. Eligible students that apply on or before Feb. 1 will be guaranteed an award. The final Access Missouri deadline is April 1. Eligible students that apply between Feb. 1 and April 1 may receive an award based on funding availability.

Some colleges and universities have their own FAFSA deadlines for the financial aid they offer, so be sure to check with the school you plan to attend so you do not miss the cutoff.

How do you file?

The quickest and easiest way to complete the FAFSA is online at fafsa.gov. You will need a few key pieces of information and a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). Use the FAFSA checklist on page 20 to make sure you have gathered all the required documents prior to filing.

The FAFSA requires tax information that should already be filed. Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to auto-fill your tax information.

Returning students

You should complete the FAFSA each year you plan to attend school. If you filed online, you should receive a reminder email.

If you transfer to a different college, your new school will need a completed FAFSA prior to awarding any financial aid. Be sure to update the federal school code on your FAFSA and contact your new college about your plans to transfer. You can do this by logging on at fafsa.gov.

To transfer Missouri student aid, contact the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development at 800-473-6757, option 4.

Use the FAFSA4caster

If you are not ready to apply for federal student aid but would like to find out approximately how much aid you could receive, try out the FAFSA4caster. The FAFSA4caster is a free online financial aid calculator. It includes a worksheet to help you determine an estimated net cost for schools you are interested in attending. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/spa/fafsa4c> to get started. Just remember, this tool is not the official application for federal student aid — it is just an estimator.

Creating an FSA ID

Setting up your FSA ID includes creating a username and password to electronically access and sign the FAFSA. You will use your FSA ID every year you fill out the FAFSA and for the lifetime of your federal student loans.

You will need to determine whether or not you will be classified as a *dependent* or *independent* student. Even if your parents are not helping you pay for college, you could be considered a dependent student. If you are a dependent student, at least one of your parents will also need an FSA ID. For information about who counts as your parent, check out page 21.

FSA ID tips

Create your own FSA ID. Visit fsaid.ed.gov to create an FSA ID. You'll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth. You'll create a username and password, and provide answers to some challenge questions.

Choose your FSA ID username, password and challenge questions carefully. Choose memorable answers. If you cannot recall your username or password, the challenge questions will help you access your account. You can also retrieve your username or reset your password by having a secure code sent to you via email or text message.

Provide a mobile phone number and email address.

Providing a mobile phone number and/or email address will make it easier to unlock your account, retrieve your forgotten username, or reset your forgotten password. An email address and mobile phone number cannot be used with more than one FSA ID, so parents and students need to use their own. Do not use your school or work email address.

Protect your account. The FSA ID is your legal signature and shouldn't be created or used by anyone other than you—not even your parent, a school official, or a loan company representative. Allowing someone else to use your FSA ID puts you at risk for identity theft or not being able to access your personal information.

Five steps to apply for financial aid

Step 1

Obtain your FSA ID.

Log on to fsaid.ed.gov to create a username and password. You and at least one of your parents (if you are a dependent student, see page 20) will each need to create an FSA ID to submit your FAFSA online. See page 16 for help creating an FSA ID.

Step 2

Gather your documents.

You will need your Social Security number, 2018 federal income tax returns, W-2s, records of investments and money earned. See page 20-21 for additional information.

Step 3

File the FAFSA.

File the 2020–21 FAFSA at fafsa.gov or on the *myStudentAid App* for Apple or Android as soon as possible after Oct. 1, 2019. For free help completing the FAFSA, attend a FAFSA Frenzy event near you. Find a location at journeytocollege.mo.gov/fafsa-frenzy/.

Step 4

Review your Student Aid Report.

Once your FAFSA is processed, you will receive your Student Aid Report. Review it as soon as possible for accuracy and make corrections as needed.

Step 5

Compare financial aid offers.

Carefully compare all financial aid offers and college costs. Explore all options available and make a realistic plan for paying for college.

Did you know?

Extra financial assistance and other resources are available for students who have been in foster care or are considered homeless. If you fall into one of those categories, keep these tips in mind as you plan for college and work toward earning a certificate or degree:

- Every Missouri school district has a designated liaison to help homeless students access higher education. Your high school counselor can help you find your liaison to access free support and services.
- You may be considered an independent student when it comes to financial aid eligibility. That means you won't need to worry about providing parent information on financial aid forms. Find out if you qualify as an independent student on page 20.
- Most college campuses offer practical resources to help you succeed. Find the Student Affairs office on your campus to find out what services are available. You may ask about holiday hours, food pantries, emergency funds, work-study programs, and free tutoring.
- You may be eligible for exam fee waivers or tuition waivers. Talk to your high school counselor or the college admissions department to see if you qualify.
- There are scholarships and grants designed with you in mind! Foster youth can take advantage of the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, which provides up to \$5,000 a year for college and vocational training. The MO Reach and Missouri Credential Completion and Employment (CCE) programs also provide tuition waivers. Visit <http://www.fc2sprograms.org/> to apply for all three programs.
- Federal Student Aid offers resources and other tips for homeless and foster youth at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/homeless-youth.pdf>.
- Young adults exiting foster care can take advantage of aftercare services. Visit dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/aftercare.htm.
- Find more information at journeytocollege.mo.gov/foster-and-homeless-youth.



Learn more about paying for college:

journeytocollege.mo.gov



Student stories:

Kahleigha

Hometown: Lake City, MN

School: Ozarks Technical Community College

Major: Criminal Justice

“Being a first-generation college student was very scary to begin with, but it has made every victory that much more rewarding. I have had to lean on others and trust that as I continue going to school, things will come more naturally.”



Need help completing the FAFSA?

FAFSA Frenzy provides free assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. FAFSA Frenzy activities are held throughout Missouri in October, November, December and January. See if your school is participating or find a public event at journeytocollege.mo.gov/fafsa-frenzy/.

Journey to College
FAFSA Frenzy

What to expect after submitting the FAFSA

After you submit your application, your information will be sent electronically to the colleges you indicated on the FAFSA. Your information is also sent to the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to determine eligibility for some Missouri state student financial aid programs.

Student Aid Report

Once your FAFSA is processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR. The SAR does not tell you how much financial aid you will receive. It is a summary of the data you submitted. The information will be emailed to you if an email address was provided, or sent to you by standard U.S. mail. Review your SAR for accuracy as soon as possible and make corrections as needed. If there are no corrections or additional information you must provide, it will indicate your Expected Family Contribution, or EFC.

Expected Family Contribution

Your EFC is used to determine your eligibility for financial aid. It is not the amount you must pay your school. The EFC is calculated according to a formula established by federal law. The EFC formula considers a number of factors, including your family's income and assets and the number of family members attending college during the year.

You may be asked to verify and confirm information you submitted on your FAFSA. Financial aid officers at your college may ask for income tax records, W-2 statements, 1099 forms, verification of the number in your household, or other documents. Students selected for verification cannot receive financial aid until their data has been verified, so be sure to submit the requested information as soon as possible.

College Financing Offer

If you applied for admission to a college and have been accepted, that college — if you listed it on your FAFSA — will calculate your aid and send you an electronic or paper financial aid offer. Your offer indicates how much aid you are eligible to receive at that particular college. Your offer may include student loans but you do not have to accept them. You can also request a smaller amount of loans, or return a portion of your refund.

How is financial need calculated?

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is subtracted from a school's cost of attendance to determine your financial need and the types and amounts of financial aid you may be eligible to receive.



School's cost of attendance

— Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

= Your financial need*

**Financial need for most programs is calculated with a standard federal formula.*

Important dates for filing the FAFSA

Be sure to use the correct tax information each year when you complete your FAFSA.

If you will be attending college during this time...	You can fill out a FAFSA during this time...	Using tax information from this year...
July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020	October 1, 2018– June 30, 2020	2017
July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021	October 1, 2019– June 30, 2021	2018
July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022	October 1, 2020– June 30, 2022	2019

2020–21 FAFSA checklist

You must complete the FAFSA every year you attend college to qualify for most federal and state financial aid and some college-based financial aid. Requested information may change from year to year. Be aware of the different national, state, and college financial aid deadlines for completing the FAFSA. If you are an *independent* student, you will only need to provide personal information for yourself and your spouse, if married. If you are considered a *dependent* student, you will need to provide information for yourself and your legal parent(s).

Are you *independent* or *dependent*? If you answer “yes” to any of the questions below, you are considered an *independent* student:

- ☐ Y ☐ N Were you born before Jan. 1, 1997?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Are you married as of the day you file your FAFSA?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Will you be working on a master’s degree or doctoral degree at the beginning of the 2020–21 school year?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Are you a veteran or active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Do you have children who will be receiving more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Do you have any dependents (other than a child or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and through June 30, 2021?
- ☐ Y ☐ N At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Have you been declared an emancipated minor by a court in the state where you have your legal residence?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Have you been placed in legal guardianship by a court in the state where you have your legal residence?
- ☐ Y ☐ N At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- ☐ Y ☐ N At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Visit [journeytocollege.mo.gov/plan/foster-and-homeless-youth/](https://www.journeytocollege.mo.gov/plan/foster-and-homeless-youth/) for more information.

You will need the following if applicable: The following information is also required from parent(s) if you are considered a *dependent* student:

- ☐ Social Security numbers for the student and parents. If you do not have a Social Security number, call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or visit [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov).
- ☐ Birth dates.
- ☐ Student driver’s license number, if applicable.
- ☐ Student Alien Registration Number for eligible noncitizens. If you need one, visit the Citizenship and Immigration Services website at uscis.gov.
- ☐ Your FSA ID (username and password) if you are submitting the FAFSA online. You can create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.
- ☐ All 2018 federal income tax forms. If you did not keep copies, you can call the IRS at 800-829-1040.
- ☐ All 2018 W-2 forms and, if applicable, workers’ compensation benefits and Unemployment Form 1099-G. If you do not have copies, contact your employer or call the IRS at 800-829-1040.
- ☐ Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed.
- ☐ Current cash/checking/savings account balances.
- ☐ Current investment values (stocks, savings bonds, mutual funds, CDs) excluding parent’s home and retirement plans.
- ☐ Current business value.
- ☐ Current investment farm value.
- ☐ 2018 child support paid or received. If you did not keep records, you can contact your local child support office or call 800-443-1576.
- ☐ 2018 housing/food/living allowance for military and clergy. This information is on the Leave and Earnings Statement for military personnel and on the W-2 form for members of the clergy.
- ☐ Veterans noneducation benefits. If you did not keep records, call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 800-827-1000 or visit va.gov.

Less than an hour — The average amount of time it takes to complete the FAFSA. You can do it!

Q&A: Who is my “parent” when I fill out the FAFSA?

Q: Which parent’s information should I report on the FAFSA?

A: If you are considered a dependent student by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (see page 20), you are required to include information about your parents on the application. But what if your parents are divorced? Remarried? What if you live with a family member other than your parents? Whose information should you report? Below are some guidelines that might help answer your questions. Unless otherwise noted, “parent” means your legal (biological and/or adoptive) parent and stepparent, if parent is remarried. In addition, the rules below apply to your legal parents regardless of their gender.

- If your parents are living and legally married to each other, answer the questions about both of them.
- If your parents are living together and are not married, answer the questions about both of them.
- If your parent is widowed or was never married, answer the questions about that parent.
- If your parents are divorced or separated and do not live together, answer the questions about the parent with whom you lived more during the past 12 months. If you lived the same amount of time with each parent, give answers about the parent who provided more financial support during the past 12 months or during the most recent year that you actually received support from a parent.
- If your parents are divorced but live together, you will indicate their marital status as “Unmarried and both parents living together,” and you will answer the questions about both of them.
- If your parents are separated but live together, you will indicate their marital status as “Married or remarried,” and you will answer the questions about both of them.
- If you have a stepparent who is married to the legal parent whose information you are reporting, you must provide information about that stepparent as well.
- The following people are not your parents unless they have adopted you: grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older brothers or sisters, and uncles or aunts.

Exception: The FAFSA asks about your parents’ education level. For these questions, your parents are considered to be your birth parents or adoptive parents — your stepparent is not your parent for these questions.



Q: What if I don’t live with my parents?

A: You must answer the questions about your parents if you are considered a dependent student, even if you do not live with them.

Q: What if my parents aren’t going to help me pay for college and refuse to provide information for my FAFSA?

A: You cannot be considered independent of your parents just because they refuse to help you with this process. If you do not provide their information on the FAFSA, this may affect your eligibility for federal aid. The online help will assist you with completing and submitting the FAFSA if you are in this situation. You also will need to speak to the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend.

Q: What if I have no contact with my parents?

A: If you do not know where your parents live or you have left home due to an abusive situation, fill out the FAFSA and then immediately get in touch with the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend. The financial aid administrator will tell you what to do next. Do not put this off or you might miss financial aid deadlines.

Q: What if I’m considered homeless or have been in foster care?

A: If you are considered an independent student (see page 20), then you do not enter parent information into the FAFSA.



Don't fall for one of the following myths as a reason not to complete the FAFSA:

- ▶ “I won’t qualify for financial aid, so I don’t need to apply.”
- ▶ “The FAFSA is too long and complicated to fill out.”
- ▶ “I’m a nontraditional student, so I’m too old to qualify for financial aid.”
- ▶ “Only students who have good grades get financial aid.”

Three steps to transfer your IRS data into your FAFSA

If the IRS Data Retrieval Tool is available at the time of FAFSA filing, use it to auto-fill your tax information.

If the tool is unavailable, you will need to manually enter your tax information. The FAFSA will walk you through each step. The 2020–21 FAFSA form will ask for 2018 tax information.

Step 1

Connect to the IRS site.

Click the “Link to IRS” button within your FAFSA and log in with your FSA ID to be transferred to the IRS to receive information.

Step 2

Enter your information.

Once at the IRS site, enter your information exactly as it appears on your federal income tax return and click the “Submit” button.

Step 3

Transfer your information.

Check the “Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA” box, and click the “Transfer Now” button. The words “Transferred from the IRS” will display in place of the IRS information in your FAFSA form. If you have everything else complete, sign and submit your FAFSA.

Seek out scholarships

Most scholarships are based on academic or other types of achievements, while some are geared toward specific groups of students. Scholarships vary in amount, from one-time awards of a few hundred dollars to covering full tuition worth thousands of dollars.

Every scholarship you receive will help reduce the cost of your education, so it is important to start looking early and apply for as many as possible. Scholarships can also be renewable or specific to current college students. Continue searching for scholarships throughout your college career.

Finding scholarships

Scholarships are offered by thousands of local, regional and national organizations — you just have to find them. You can learn about scholarship opportunities by:

- Talking with your high school counselor.
- Contacting the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend.
- Searching online — popular sites include: myscholarshipcentral.org, fastweb.com, bigfuture.collegeboard.org, collegescholarships.org and myscholly.com.
- Checking with local businesses, community and civic groups, and religious organizations.

Be aware of scholarship scams. Do not provide credit card information to use a free scholarship search. Be sure to read the fine print before providing too much information, as some companies may send you unwanted information about other services they offer or sell your information. Visit studentaid.gov/types/scams for more information about scholarship scams.

Find more information about scholarship opportunities by visiting Journey2College on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. Sign up to receive the Journey to College Monthly Reminder, an email message containing information about scholarships and other college tips and deadlines at journeytocollege.mo.gov/connect/monthly-reminder/.

Applying for scholarships

Applying for scholarships is similar to applying to college. Be sure to check the eligibility requirements before spending the time to apply. Once you have determined you are eligible, read the application carefully, fill it out completely, and meet the application deadline.

Usually, you will need to complete and submit an application, highlight your personal and academic achievements, and provide letters of recommendation. Many scholarship applications also require you to write an essay.



Check out these scholarship resources

- myscholarshipcentral.org
- fastweb.com
- bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- collegescholarships.org
- myscholly.com



Missouri student financial aid

Missouri offers a number of grants and scholarships, administered by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, that can help eligible students pay for their college education.

A+ Scholarship Program

The A+ Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship that provides scholarship funds to eligible graduates of A+ designated high schools who attend participating public community colleges or vocational/technical schools, or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools.

Application:

- There is no paper application to fill out; however, you should check with your community college or vocational/technical school to see what materials they require in order to confirm your A+ eligibility.

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
- Attend a designated A+ high school for any two years prior to graduation, and graduate from an A+ designated high school.*
- Graduate with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Have at least a 95 percent attendance record overall for grades 9–12.
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which up to 25 percent may include job shadowing.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol in grades 9–12.
- Achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra I end-of-course exam or a higher level DESE approved end-of-course exam in the field of mathematics.**
- Enroll and attend full time at a participating public community college or vocational/technical school, or private two-year vocational/technical school.
- Be seeking a degree or certificate at the school in which you are enrolled.
- Not be pursuing a degree or certificate in theology or divinity.
- Not have a criminal record preventing receipt of federal Title IV student financial aid.
- Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your college or vocational school. Initial students must have a 2.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of the fall term and a 2.5 grade point average at the end of the spring term to maintain eligibility.

To renew:

- Continue to meet the eligibility requirements for initial students.
- Complete the FAFSA each year in order to make a good faith effort to secure a Pell Grant or other federal aid.
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and otherwise maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your school.
- For each term you receive an award, complete at least 12 credit hours in the fall and spring and 6 hours in the summer to be eligible for the next term in which you enroll.

Award amounts:

- The amount of your tuition and general fees remaining after any federal non-loan sources of funding, including Pell Grants, have been applied. If state appropriations are not sufficient to fully fund the program, your award amount may be reduced.
- Tuition for certain courses, including repeated courses or in some instances courses from which you withdrew, will not be included in the award amount. Check with your financial aid officer or the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development if you have questions about the amount of your award.

* This requirement changed from three years to two beginning with the senior class of 2020.

** If you are a 2019 or 2020 high school senior and met all of the eligibility requirements except the end-of-course exam requirement, you may establish eligibility through a combination of your high school GPA and ACT math subscore. The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development will announce the qualifying combinations of ACT math subscore and high school GPA annually. You may achieve the qualifying ACT score as a high school or postsecondary student. If you achieve the score as a postsecondary student, you may be eligible for an award the same term that you take the test. More information can be found at dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplussscholarship.php.

Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program

The Access Missouri Program is a need-based program designed to be simple to understand, provide predictable, portable awards, and increase access to your Missouri school of choice. Your financial eligibility is determined by your Expected Family Contribution or EFC, as calculated through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Application:

- There is no paper application to fill out; however, you must submit your FAFSA by Feb. 1 each year in order to meet the priority deadline. Eligible students who apply on or before Feb. 1 are guaranteed an award. You must submit your FAFSA by April 1 to meet the final deadline to be considered for an award. Eligible students who apply between Feb. 1 and April 1 will be awarded based on funding availability.
- FAFSA corrections must be made prior to July 31.

Eligibility requirements:

- Have a FAFSA for the upcoming school year on file by the Feb. 1 priority deadline or by the final deadline of April 1 for the upcoming academic year.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and a Missouri resident.
- Be an undergraduate student enrolled full time at a participating Missouri school.
- Have an Expected Family Contribution of \$12,000 or less.
- Not be pursuing a degree or certificate in theology or divinity.
- Not have received your first bachelor's degree, completed the required hours for a bachelor's degree or completed 150 semester credit hours.
- Not have received an Access Missouri award for a maximum of five semesters at a two-year school or 10 semesters at any combination of two-year or four-year schools.

To renew:

- Continue to meet the eligibility requirements for initial students.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and otherwise maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your school.

Award amounts:

- Access Missouri funds are awarded on an annual basis, with half of the award disbursed in fall and the other half in spring. Actual award amounts vary depending on the type of institution you attend, your EFC or expected family contribution, as determined by your FAFSA, your financial aid package and the annual appropriation for the Access Missouri program.
- The annual award ranges are:
 - \$300–\$1,300 if attending a participating public two-year institution;
 - \$1,500–\$2,850 if attending a participating public four-year institution, independent, or virtual institution, or State Technical College of Missouri;
- Awards are not available during summer terms.

Last year, more than **63,000 Missouri students** received state financial aid through the A+ Scholarship, Bright Flight Scholarship, and Access Missouri Grant programs.

“Bright Flight” Missouri Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program

This merit-based program encourages top-ranked high school seniors to attend participating Missouri colleges and universities.

Application:

- There is no Bright Flight application to complete. The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development will receive your ACT or SAT composite score(s), along with approved Missouri college or university choices, from your ACT or SAT assessment records.

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a Missouri resident and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Have a composite score on the ACT or SAT in either the top 3 percent or in the top 4th and 5th percentiles of all Missouri students taking those tests.
- The qualifying score must be achieved by the June test date immediately following your graduation from high school, receipt of your HiSET certificate, or completion of your secondary coursework, if home-schooled.
- Enroll full time as a first-time student at a participating Missouri school and receive the scholarship in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, receipt of your HiSET certificate, or completion of your secondary coursework, if home-schooled.
- Not be pursuing a degree or certificate in theology or divinity.
- Submit supplemental eligibility information, if requested, by the deadline established by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development.

To renew:

- Continue to meet the eligibility requirements for initial students.
- Enroll full time and receive the scholarship at least one semester each academic year. Deferments are available in certain situations. Visit dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/brightflight.php for more information about deferments.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and otherwise maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your school.

Award amounts:

- Top 3 percent, up to \$3,000 annually.
- Top 4th and 5th percentiles, up to \$1,000 annually.
- Actual award amounts are subject to the program’s annual appropriation.
- Students in the top 3 percent must receive the full \$3,000 before students in the 4th and 5th percentiles will be awarded any funds. Students who are not funded but continue to meet the eligibility requirements will remain eligible in the event funding becomes available at a later date.
- Awards are not available during summer terms.

Student stories:

David

Hometown: Vienna, MO

School: Ozarks Technical Community College

Major: Construction Technologies

A+ Scholarship recipient

“Going to college is something I always wanted to do. I asked for help and prepared early for everything. One way I received help to complete my FAFSA was by attending a FAFSA Frenzy event during my senior year.”



Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship

This needs-based scholarship is designed to assist students who are employed while attending school part time. This program is being phased out and will only be available to renewal students beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

Application:

- Complete the FAFSA by Aug. 1 each year.
- Apply through your college's financial aid office, providing a completed employment verification form which can be found at dhewd.mo.gov/files/MRBM_Employment.pdf.

Renewal requirements:

- Be enrolled at least half time, but less than full time (6–11 credit hours), at a participating Missouri postsecondary school.
- Be employed and compensated for at least 20 hours per week (not including employment under the Title IV College Work Study program).
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Be a Missouri resident and a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.
- Not be pursuing a degree or certificate in theology or divinity.
- Not have received your first bachelor's degree or completed 150 semester credit hours.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and otherwise maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your school.

Award amounts:

- The maximum semester scholarship amount is the least of:
 - The tuition charged for 6 or 9 credit hours at the school where you are enrolled part time, or;
 - The amount of tuition charged to a Missouri undergraduate resident enrolled in 6 or 9 credit hours in the same class level at the University of Missouri in Columbia.
- Award amounts for students enrolled in 6, 7, or 8 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, will be calculated based on 6 semester credit hours. Award amounts for students enrolled in 9, 10 or 11 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, will be calculated based on 9 semester credit hours.
- Your award amount may vary between semesters depending on the number of credit hours in which you are enrolled. If you transfer to a different school, your award amount may also change based on the tuition at the school to which you transfer.
- Awards are provided each semester based on limited funding availability. As a result, all eligible students may not be funded.
- Awards are not available during summer terms.

Student stories:

Meredith

Hometown: St. Louis, MO

School: Missouri Southern State University

Major: Early Childhood Education

Minor: Business

“I’ve always kind of known I wanted to be a teacher. I love kids and educating them. I work at a preschool at home and make such important connections with the families. I love getting to know everyone in the community.”





Other state financial aid programs

Brief descriptions of additional state financial aid programs administered by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development are listed below. For complete information about these programs, including eligibility requirements, award amounts, and applications, visit journeytocollege.mo.gov/pay/state-financial-aid/. See pages 46–47 for a listing of additional resources and programs. State financial aid is subject to the amount of money the General Assembly designates in its budget each year.

Advanced Placement Incentive Grant

This is a one-time \$500 grant designed to encourage high school students to take and score well on Advanced Placement tests in mathematics and science. Like most other Missouri student aid programs, this grant amount is subject to appropriations. Apply by June 1 of the academic year in which you are seeking the scholarship.

Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant

This new financial aid program implemented for the 2019-20 academic year will address workforce needs by encouraging adults to pursue a certificate, degree, or industry-recognized credential in an area designated as high need. Persons 25 years or older, or those who have not been enrolled in any school for at least two years may qualify for this grant.

Kids' Chance of Missouri Scholarship Program

This scholarship is available to children of workers who were seriously injured or died in a work-related accident covered and compensated by workers' compensation. A serious injury is one that led to a paid settlement or judicial award and is verified with information from the Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation. Apply through Kids' Chance Inc. of Missouri and file your FAFSA by April 30.

Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program

This scholarship is designed to assist academically talented minority and underrepresented individuals pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree in an environmental course of study that will lead to employment in a field that is clearly environmentally related. The Minority Environmental Literacy Advisory Committee selects recipients based on the degree to which applicants' education, activities, and career goals meet the goals of this program. Apply by June 1 each year to receive assistance in the upcoming year.

Public Service Officer or Employee's Child Survivor Grant Program

This program provides tuition assistance to certain public employees and their families if the employee is killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. There is no application deadline but you are encouraged to apply early.

Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant

This grant is available annually to children and spouses of veterans whose deaths or injuries were: a result of combat action or were attributed to an illness that was contracted while serving in combat action, or who became 80 percent disabled as a result of injuries or accidents sustained in combat action since Sept. 11, 2001. The veteran must have been a Missouri resident when first entering the military service or at the time of death or injury. Renewal students must apply by May 1 each year to be assured of award priority. There is no deadline for initial applicants but early application is encouraged.



Learn more about paying for college:

journeytocollege.mo.gov/pay/

Missouri Student Financial Aid Portal

The Missouri Student Financial Aid Portal has a fresh new look and more to offer! High school seniors and college students can set up a free account and utilize the portal to:

- Estimate financial aid eligibility
- Submit online state aid applications
- See award amounts and disbursements
- Access state financial aid information
- Connect seamlessly to the Missouri Student Workspace

Missouri Student Workspace

The new Missouri Student Workspace is a virtual college portfolio. Students of all ages can create an account to:

- Save materials related to the college-planning process
- See financial aid applications submitted through the Student Financial Aid Portal
- Save scholarship information, essays, and applications
- Save transfer documents, college degree maps, resumes, and transcripts
- See deadlines and reminders based on their journey through college
- Create notes to stay on track

Access the Portal and Workspace from the *journeytocollege.mo.gov* homepage.

Student Stories:

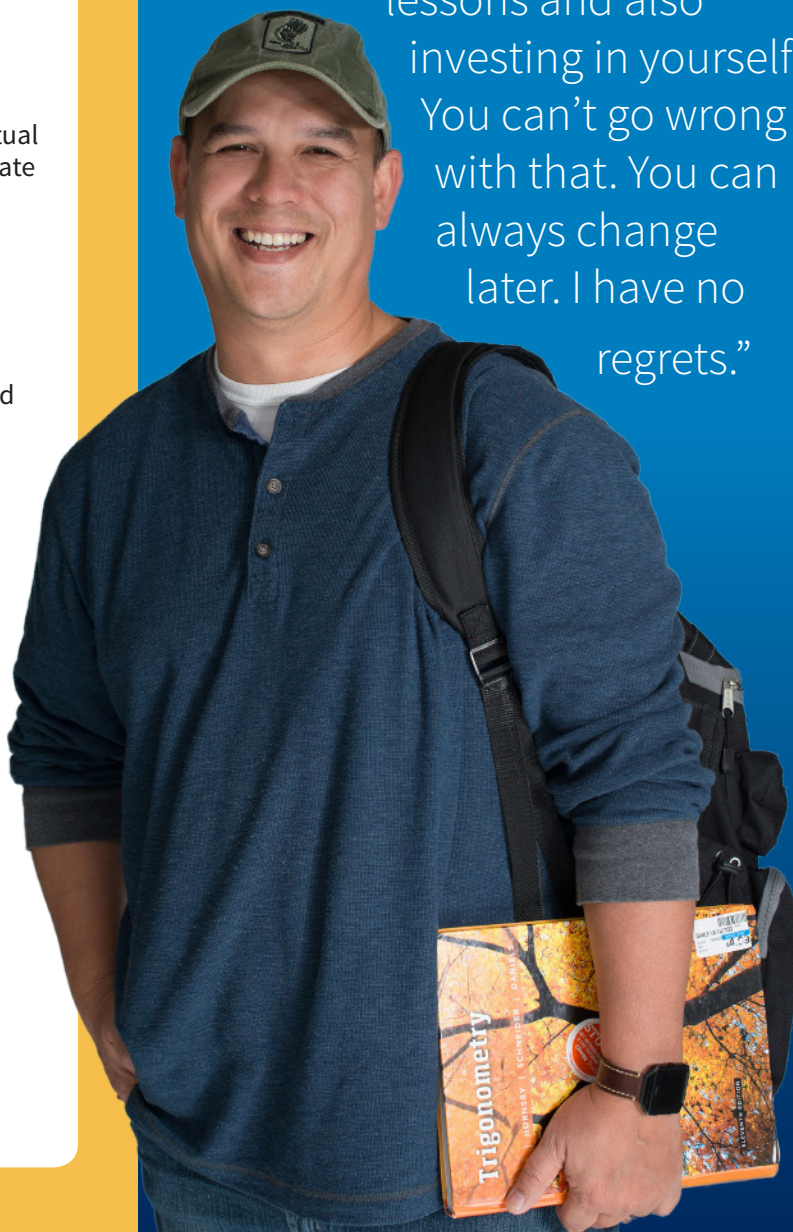
Bud

Hometown: Panama City, FL

School: Mineral Area College

Major: Secondary Education (Mathematics)
Veteran

“I’m 44 and I just found out what I want to do with my life. It’s okay to not know exactly what you want to do. By going to school, you’re learning life lessons and also investing in yourself. You can’t go wrong with that. You can always change later. I have no regrets.”



Federal student aid

The U.S. Department of Education provides a variety of financial assistance programs to help students and their families pay for college or career school. To be eligible for Federal Student Aid programs, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each year. Learn how to submit your FAFSA on page 16. Final eligibility is determined by the college you attend.

The Office of Federal Student Aid awards more than \$150 billion every year in grants, loans, and work-study funds. All programs require students to meet the general criteria below.

Federal student aid eligibility requirements:

Eligibility for federal student aid is based on a number of factors. Your age or race does not affect your eligibility. While your income is taken into consideration, it does not automatically prevent you from qualifying for federal student aid.

To receive federal student aid, you need to:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen.
- Have a high school diploma or recognized equivalent such as a General Education Development or HiSET certificate, or have completed a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law.
- Enroll in an eligible career pathway program and meet one of the “ability-to-benefit” alternatives.
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program.
- Be registered with Selective Service, if you are a male. You must register between the ages of 18 and 25.
- Have a valid Social Security number (with the exception of students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.)
- Not be in default on a federal student loan and not owe a refund on a federal grant.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your college.

Federal Pell Grant

Federal Pell Grants provide grants to undergraduate students and certain post baccalaureate students who demonstrate financial need. Unlike a loan, the grant does not have to be repaid. Visit studentaid.gov/types/grants-scholarships/pell for more information.

Eligibility requirements:

- Meet general student aid eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student who has not earned a bachelor’s or a professional degree.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Some students enrolled in a post baccalaureate teacher certification program may be eligible.
- Cannot be incarcerated in a federal or state correctional facility.

Award amounts:

- The amounts can change yearly. The amount you get will depend on your financial need, your cost of attendance and your enrollment status.
- You can receive between \$650 and \$6,195 for the 2019–20 award year, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.
- You cannot receive Federal Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, or FSEOG, is a grant for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. It is administered directly by the financial aid office at each participating school and is considered campus-based aid. For more information, visit studentaid.gov/types/grants-scholarships/fseog.

Eligibility requirements:

- Meet general student aid eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student who has not earned a bachelor’s or a professional degree.
- Demonstrate exceptional financial need.
- Cannot be incarcerated in a federal or state correctional facility.
- Priority given to Federal Pell Grant recipients first.

Award amounts:

- You can receive between \$100 and \$4,000 a year, depending on your financial need, when you apply, the amount of other aid you get, and the availability of funds at your school.
- Funds are designated on a first-come, first-served basis after the FAFSA becomes available Oct. 1 each year.

Federal Work-Study program

The Federal Work-Study program provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study. For more information, visit studentaid.gov/types/work-study.

Eligibility requirements:

- Meet student aid eligibility requirements.
- Available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with financial need.
- For full-time or part-time students.

Award amounts:

- You will earn at least the current federal minimum wage; however, you may earn more depending on the type of work you do and the skills required for the position.
- Your total work-study award depends on when you apply, your level of financial need, and your school's funding level.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

This grant is designed to help students whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and died as a result of services performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001. For more information, visit studentaid.gov/types/grants-scholarships/iraq-afghanistan-service.

Eligibility requirements:

- Meet student aid eligibility requirements.
- Are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant on the basis of your Expected Family Contribution, but you must meet the remaining Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements.
- Your parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and died as a result of military service performed in Iraq and Afghanistan after the events of Sept. 11, 2001.
- Were under the age of 24 or enrolled in college at least part time at the time of your parent's or guardian's death.

Award amounts:

- The grant award is equal to the amount of maximum Federal Pell Grant for the award year but cannot exceed your cost of attendance for that award year.
- For grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2018, and before Oct. 1, 2019, you can receive a maximum of \$5,810.
- For grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2019, and before Oct. 1, 2020, you can receive a maximum of \$5,829.

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH)

The TEACH Grant program provides grants to students who intend to teach in high-need fields, or other identified teacher shortage areas approved by the U.S. Department of Education. A TEACH Grant is different from other federal student grants because it requires you to take certain kinds of classes in order to get the grant, and then do a certain kind of job to keep the grant from turning into a loan. For more information, visit studentaid.gov/types/grants-scholarships/teach.

Eligibility requirements:

- Meet basic student aid eligibility requirements.
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate, post baccalaureate, or graduate student at a school that participates in the TEACH Grant program.
- Be enrolled in a TEACH-Grant-eligible program.
- Meet certain academic achievement requirements, generally scoring above the 75th percentile on one or more portions of a college admissions test or maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25.
- Receive TEACH Grant counseling that explains the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation. You must complete counseling each year that you receive a TEACH Grant.
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve.

Award amounts:

- For grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2018, and before Oct. 1, 2019, you can receive a maximum of \$3,752. For grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2019, and before Oct. 1, 2020, you can receive a maximum of \$3,764.
- If your service obligation is not met, your TEACH Grant funds will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. You must then repay this loan with interest charged from the date the TEACH Grant was disbursed.

Learn more about federal student aid:

studentaid.ed.gov

Federal student loans

If you apply for financial aid, you may be offered loans as part of your school's financial aid offer. A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest. Loans currently offered by the federal government include:

Federal loan program	Loan details (subject to change)	Annual award (subject to change)
Direct Subsidized Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half time and demonstrate financial need For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2019, and before July 1, 2020, interest rate is 4.53% Student is not usually charged interest on the loan during certain periods of deferment The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is the lender; payment is owed to DE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,500–\$5,500, depending on grade level and dependency status Annual loan limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$3,500 for first-year undergraduate Up to \$4,500 for second-year undergraduate Up to \$5,500 for remaining undergraduate years For total lifetime limit, go to studentaid.gov/sub-unsub
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at least half time; financial need is not required For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2019, and before July 1, 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.53% interest rate for undergraduate students, and 6.08% interest rate for graduate and professional students Student is responsible for interest during all periods The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is the lender; payment is owed to ED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5,500–\$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status Annual loan limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$9,500 for first-year undergraduate (determined by dependency status) Up to \$10,500 for second-year undergraduate (determined by dependency status) Up to \$12,500 for remaining undergraduate years (determined by dependency status) Up to \$20,500 for graduate/professional students For total lifetime limit, go to studentaid.gov/sub-unsub
Direct PLUS Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; financial need is not required Student must be enrolled at least half time and must be either a dependent undergraduate student for whom a parent is taking out a Direct PLUS Loan or a graduate or professional student who is receiving a Direct PLUS Loan For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2019, and before July 1, 2020, interest rate is 7.08% Borrower must not have negative credit history Borrower is responsible for interest during all periods The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is the lender; payment is owed to ED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid student receives; no minimum amount For Direct PLUS Loan details and updates, visit studentaid.gov/plus
Federal Perkins Loan (Disbursements for new Federal Perkins Loan ended Sept. 30, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with exceptional financial need. Eligibility depends on student's financial need and availability of funds at the college Interest rate is 5% College is the lender; payment is owed to the college that made the loan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergraduate students: up to \$5,500; graduate and professional students: up to \$8,000 Total amount may not exceed \$27,500 for undergraduates and \$60,000 for graduate students (including amounts borrowed as an undergraduate) For Federal Perkins Loan details and updates, visit studentaid.gov/perkins

Repaying student loans

Although college can be expensive, your goal should be to limit the amount of student loans you have to borrow — and eventually pay back.

When you receive a student loan, you agree to repay the loan even if you do not graduate, are unable to find employment, or are not satisfied with your education. Your student loans cannot be canceled because you did not get the education or job you expected.

You will start repaying your federal direct loans after a six-month grace period. This means your first student loan payment will be due six months from the time you graduate, drop below half-time enrollment, or stop attending college, whether you graduate or not.

Payment options

There are several options for repaying your federal student loans. Learn more about student loan repayment options at <https://journeytocollege.mo.gov/pay/student-loans/repayment-options/>.

Keep track of your student loans at nslds.ed.gov during college and throughout repayment.

You should be informed of your repayment terms and options by your loan servicer before you begin repayment. Your account will be placed on the standard repayment plan unless you request a different option from your loan servicer.

Did you know?

There are no penalties for making payments on your student loans before they officially go into repayment or paying a little extra each month. You can also make payments on the loan's interest while you're still in college. This can help reduce the total interest you pay and the total cost of your loan.

If you are having trouble making payments under the standard repayment plan, you can discuss other repayment plans with your loan servicer to determine the best option for you. In some circumstances, students may be able to temporarily postpone or reduce loan payments through deferment or forbearance.

If you do not make your monthly payments, you will become delinquent on your student loan. If you are delinquent more than 270 days, you will be considered in default and could face serious consequences. Learn more about avoiding default at journeytocollege.mo.gov/pay/student-loans/avoid-default/.

Things to consider about student loans

In order to be a responsible borrower, be sure to:

Keep track of how much you are borrowing.

Think about how the amount of money you borrow will affect your future finances, and how much you can afford to repay.

Research starting salaries in your field of study.

It is important to be realistic about your future salary so you can determine if that salary will be sufficient to cover all your future expenses, including your student loan payments.

Understand the terms of your loan and keep copies of your loan documents.

By signing your Master Promissory Note, you agree to repay the loan according to the terms of the note, even if you do not complete your education, cannot get a job, or you did not like the education you received.

Make payments on time.

It is your responsibility to make on-time payments, even if you do not receive a bill. Making full payments is also important in order to fulfill your obligation to repay your loan on time.

Keep in touch with your loan servicer.

Communicating with your loan servicer will ensure you are aware of your responsibilities. You should notify your servicer when you graduate, drop below half-time status, transfer to another school, or change your name, address, or other contact information.

Manage your money

Living like a college student while in college — adjusting your lifestyle to spend the least amount of money possible — can help make higher education more affordable. It can also reduce the amount of money you have to borrow.

Managing your money wisely is an important step to living the lifestyle you want after college. Develop and follow a budget to keep from using credit cards and taking on other types of debt to pay monthly expenses.

If you need to take out student loans:

Only borrow what you need. You can return or deny any or all of a loan offered to you. Be aware that some colleges don't put student loans on a college financing offer.

Consider your expected after-graduation salary.

Log on to missouriconnections.org to get a feel for the salary it will take to live the life you are planning. You can find both state and national salary averages under "Occupational Profiles." To see which occupations have the best outlook over the next several years, visit missourieconomy.org/pdfs/career_grades.pdf or find more career and salary information at <https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/Search>.

Compare the total costs for each college you are interested in attending. Determine how much the degree you want will cost and if you can afford it.

Most financial aid advisors recommend student loan payments not exceed 8 percent of your monthly gross income. To determine the 8 percent threshold, multiply your estimated gross income (before taxes and other withholdings) by 0.08. Divide that number by 12. Your monthly student loan payments should not exceed that number.

You can also use online calculators such as Mapping Your Future's debt/salary wizard at mappingyourfuture.org/paying/debtwizard/ to determine the salary you would need to earn to repay your student loan. Remember, only borrow what you need. You can return all or a portion of the loans offered to you.

Keep track of your federal student loans using the National Student Loan Data System at nslds.ed.gov. This website allows you to access your loan account and determine your total debt. You can also obtain this information by calling 800-4-FED-AID.

Use studentloans.gov to manage your student loans and find answers to your questions about federal student aid. The U.S. Department of Education offers information about signing your Master Promissory Note and completing entrance, financial awareness, and exit counseling.

Student stories:

Matthew

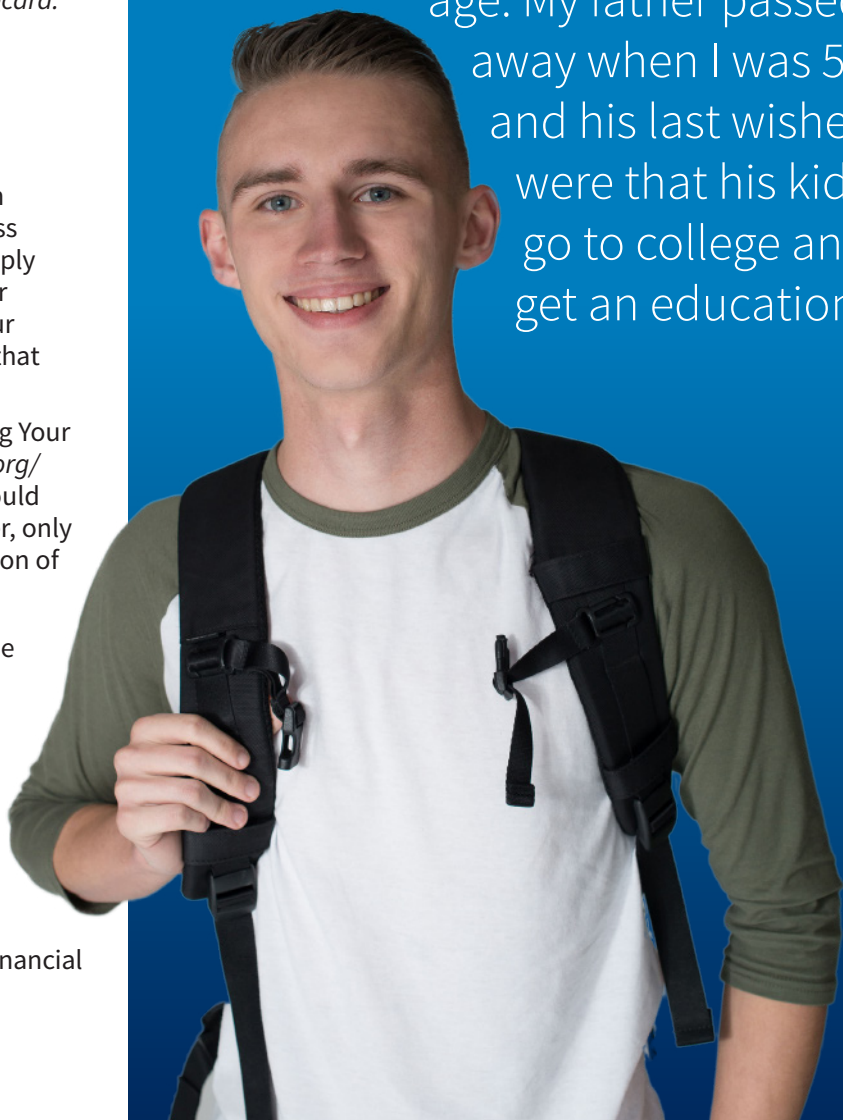
Hometown: Stella, MO

School: Crowder College

Major: Business Administration

A+ Scholarship recipient

"I've always felt a need to go to college and expand my education. My parents were a big motivation for me. My mother never finished high school and she stressed the importance of an education to me from a young age. My father passed away when I was 5 and his last wishes were that his kids go to college and get an education."



CHECKLIST: PAYING FOR COLLEGE

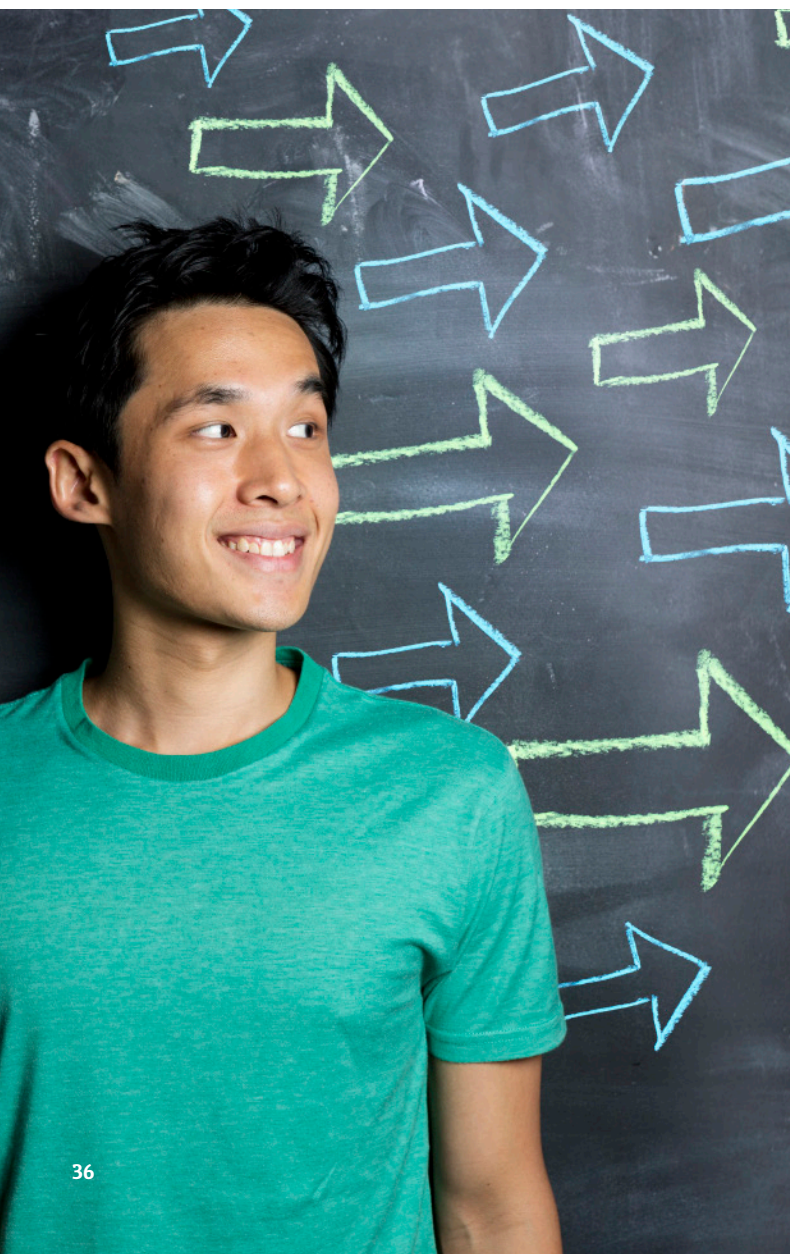
- ☐ Plan for all college-related costs
- ☐ Learn about financial aid
- ☐ Apply for scholarships throughout high school and college
- ☐ File your FAFSA before the Feb. 1 Access Missouri priority deadline
- ☐ Work part time to help with expenses
- ☐ Consider student loans carefully
- ☐ Know what you owe and what your payments will be



Finalizing your plans

Finalizing your plans is key to successfully making the transition from high school to college. Choosing a college to attend is the first step in following through on your plans to earn a degree.

Once you decide where you will attend school, there are a number of details to work out, including housing, meals, and transportation.



Narrow your options

By the time you reach the midpoint of your senior year, you should be narrowing down your school choices. Think about the qualities that are most important to you so you can make an informed decision. The college fit worksheet on page 12 (online at journeytocollege.mo.gov/college-fit-worksheet.pdf) can help you finalize your choice.

Compare costs

Once you receive college financing offers from the schools where you have been accepted, you can estimate how much you will pay for your education. Think about the full cost of finishing your degree, not just getting through your first year. Note the scholarships that are renewable and those that won't carry over into your sophomore year.

Federal law requires every college and university to provide a Net Price Calculator on its website. The net price is the amount you can expect to pay after subtracting grants and scholarships.

You can compare financial aid packages by using the college cost comparison worksheet on page 38 (online at journeytocollege.mo.gov/cost-comparison-worksheet.pdf). Be sure to take costs into consideration when making your final choice.

Make your final choice

After finalizing your college choice, be sure to notify the school you will be attending as well as the schools you were accepted to, but you will not be attending. Colleges usually want to know if you plan to enroll by May 1.



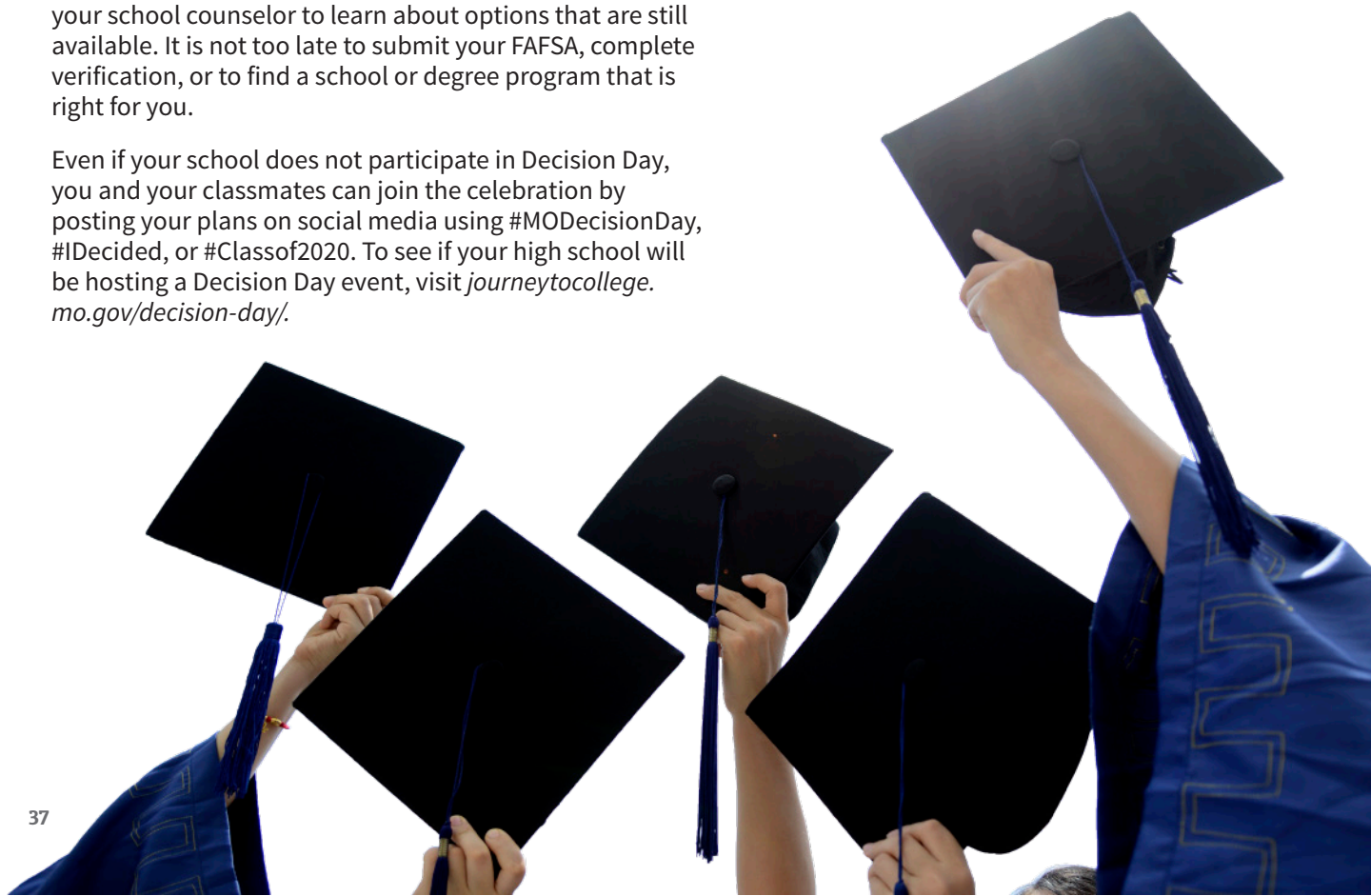
Decision Day

Many high schools in Missouri host Decision Day activities in April and May to help you finalize your plans for the future and celebrate your decision to attend college, start an apprenticeship or enter the military.

If you are still interested in attending college but you haven't applied or been accepted into college, talk with your school counselor to learn about options that are still available. It is not too late to submit your FAFSA, complete verification, or to find a school or degree program that is right for you.

Even if your school does not participate in Decision Day, you and your classmates can join the celebration by posting your plans on social media using #MODecisionDay, #IDecided, or #Classof2020. To see if your high school will be hosting a Decision Day event, visit journeytocollege.mo.gov/decision-day/.

Journey to College
Decision Day



College cost comparison

It's important to consider costs when choosing the right college for you. Use this chart to compare tuition rates, fees and your financial aid offers before making a final decision. Get the online version at journeytocollege.mo.gov/cost-comparison-worksheet.pdf.

	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4
School name				
Federal school code				
FAFSA deadline				
Estimated cost of attendance (COA)				
Tuition and fees				
Room and board				
Books and supplies				
Transportation				
Miscellaneous/personal				
Additional costs				
Total cost of attendance				
Estimated financial need				
Total cost of attendance				
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)				
Total financial need				
Estimated financial aid (grants, scholarships and tuition assistance)				
Federal Pell Grant				
Federal SEOG Grant				
Federal TEACH Grant				
Institutional aid				
Missouri state aid				
Private scholarships				
Veterans educational benefits				
Education & Training Voucher (ETV)				
MO Reach				
MO Credential Completion & Employment				
Other				
Employment				
Federal Work Study				
Other				
Loans				
Federal Perkins Loan				
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan				
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan				
Federal Direct PLUS Loan				
Institutional Loan				
Private Loan				
Other				
Total financial aid				
Estimated out-of-pocket cost				
Total cost of attendance				
— Total financial aid				
= Total out-of-pocket cost				



Housing, meals, and transportation

Once you have decided on a college, you will need to arrange for housing, meals, and transportation.

Many four-year colleges require students to live in a dorm their freshman year unless they will be living at home. If you need services during holidays or the summer, make sure you're choosing a dorm that offers that availability. If you are planning to attend a community college that might not have student housing available, you may need to find off-campus housing. Check with your school's admissions office for recommendations on affordable housing options.

Be sure you sign and return your housing contract or lease early so you will have a place to stay when the school year begins.

Most colleges offer meal plans at their dining halls. Be sure to consider all your options and sign up for a meal plan you will use.

If you do not have a car or will not be taking it with you to college, be sure to research transportation options so you have a reliable way to travel back and forth from home to college.

Part-time employment

A part-time job can help offset some of your college costs and help you cover unexpected expenses. Having a job during college is a great way to build your resume and gain real work experience. Many students are able to attend college full time and work 10 to 20 hours a week. Colleges and universities often have student jobs available on campus. Find resources on your campus to help you secure a part-time job.

Student stories:

Nicole

Hometown: Bloomington, IL

School: Missouri University of Science & Technology

Major: Computer Science & Computer Technology

“Make a budget and stick to it! As a college student, it's easy to get swept up into eating out every night and buying lots of snack foods. When you have a budget that limits you to only eating out a couple nights a week or only spending a certain amount of non-essential money when you're shopping, it's easier to keep track of your money.”





Student stories:

Mariah

Hometown: Galt, MO

School: North Central Missouri College

Major: Nursing

A+ Scholarship recipient

“College is always in reach. There are so many scholarships and grants in Missouri through the State or the college and the financial aid department in that college wants you to be successful. All you have to do is reach out to them and ask for their help. Students can 100% find a way to receive an education but it takes some grit and determination to do so.”



Stay connected
during your
journey to college



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journeytocollege



twitter.com/
Journey2College



instagram.com/
journey2college/



youtube.com/user/
MOHigherEducation



journey2college

CHECKLIST: FINALIZING YOUR PLANS

- ☐ Decide on a college by May 1
- ☐ Determine costs and financial aid
- ☐ Make housing arrangements
- ☐ Check on transportation options
- ☐ Create a realistic budget
- ☐ Look for part-time job opportunities
- ☐ Attend orientation and register for classes
- ☐ Complete all final tasks and forms in order to make it to college in the fall.



Finishing your degree

When it comes to college, one of the most important things you can do is graduate. Completing your degree will help you fully benefit from the time and money you have invested in your education.

With a degree, you are more likely to find a job in your field of study, earn a higher salary, and repay student loans you may have — making it easier to achieve your goals for the future.

Succeed in school

Many factors — academics, finances and personal issues — can affect your ability to succeed in school and make the most of your time in college. Keep the following tips in mind as you face challenges and work toward completing your degree or certificate:

Manage your time

Students often say time management is their biggest challenge. College offers more freedom and choices than you had in high school, so you will need to focus on finding the right balance between school, work, and activities with family and friends.

Set goals and priorities

Be sure you plan enough time to complete assignments and study for exams. Many financial aid programs require you to maintain a certain grade point average. Don't let your grades slip to the point that you lose your financial aid and can no longer afford to stay in school.

Ask for help if you need it

If you find that you are struggling with a particular course, many colleges offer free tutoring and math and writing assistance. Meet with your academic advisor to find out what kind of help is available at your school. If you are struggling financially, meet with a financial aid officer or peer counselor to discuss your situation. Many colleges also offer help to students who are hungry, can't find transportation, or are struggling with health issues. Reach out!

Look for opportunities

Internships, study abroad programs, and participating in organizations and activities can provide valuable experience and help you develop leadership skills. College is a great time to make new friends; joining an organization is a great way to do this.



Transferring credit

Thousands of students transfer from one college or university to another every year as they work toward a degree.



The CORE 42 curriculum is a block of at least 42 credit hours that will transfer as equivalent credit to all public colleges and universities in Missouri. The CORE 42 curriculum will fulfill the general education requirements for many degree programs offered in Missouri.

If you think you will be transferring at some point in the future, make sure the classes you take will count toward the degree you are seeking at the school you plan to attend.

For more information about programs in Missouri designed to help make transferring a smooth transition, visit journeytocollege.mo.gov/finish/transfer-credit/. Most colleges and universities also have information about transferring credit on their websites. Talk to the admissions staff at both your current and future schools to let them know of your plans to transfer.

If you transfer, be sure to provide all grade transcripts to the admissions office at your new school. Working with the admissions office will help you get the appropriate credit for the classes you have completed.

Graduate on time

The best way to increase your chances of finishing a degree is to graduate on time. The longer you stay in school, the more challenging it can be to complete a degree.

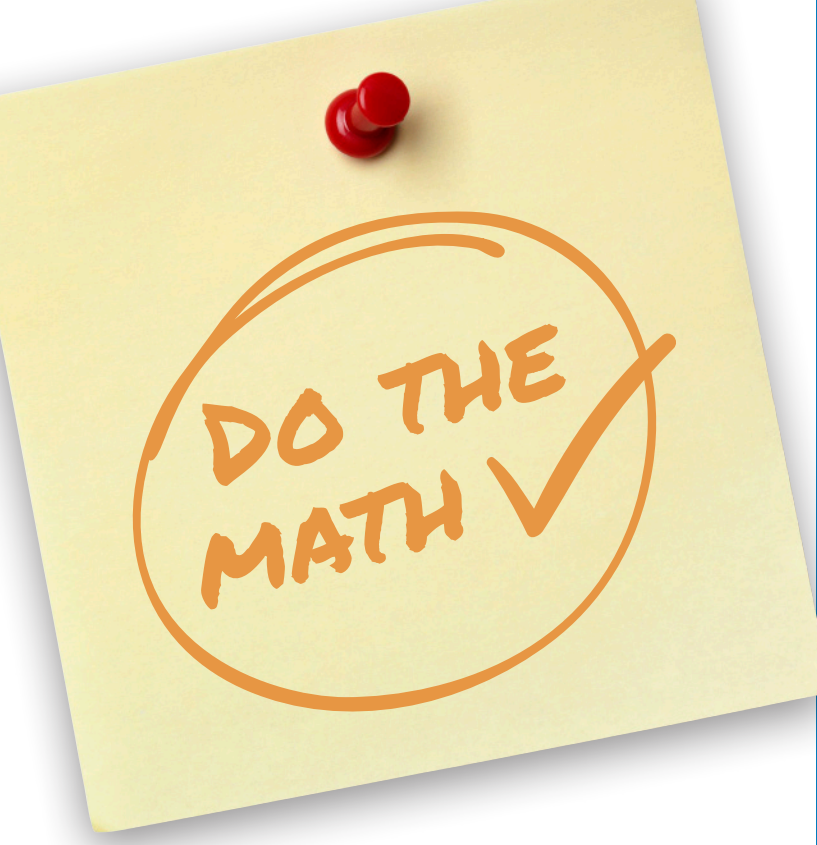
Attending school full time does not always mean you will graduate on time. While 12 credit hours a semester is usually considered full-time enrollment, you will need to earn an average of 15 or more credit hours a semester to finish an associate degree in two years or a bachelor's degree in four years.

It's important to graduate on time because an extra year in college could cost more than you think. The cost of tuition, fees, books, housing, and loss of the salary you could have earned at a full-time job can top \$50,000 a year.

Graduating on time is one sure way you can cut college costs and reduce the amount of money you might need to borrow to pay for school.



Log on to journeytocollege.mo.gov to use the **Course Transfer Tracker**. Track your general education progress and see how your courses will transfer to other public colleges and universities in Missouri.



DO THE
MATH ✓

- Know how many credit hours you need for your degree.
- Take 15 or more credit hours a semester to earn an associate degree in two years or a bachelor's degree in four years.
- Consider all your options — dual credit and AP classes in high school and summer school and online courses in college can help you graduate on time.

15  **to**
Finish
MISSOURI

Student stories:

Clayton

Hometown: St. Louis, MO

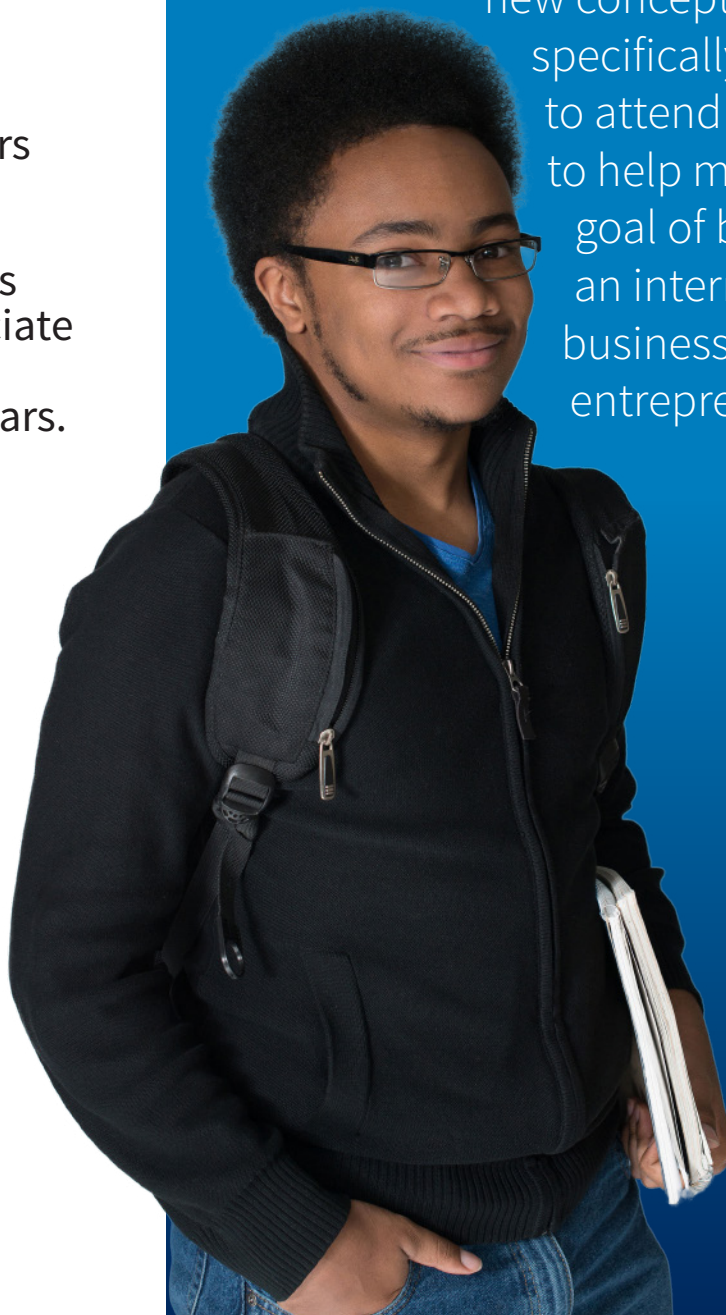
School: Mineral Area College

Major: Business

A+ Scholarship recipient

“College is the place to get a foundation for your future. It also gives you the opportunity to meet new people and learn new concepts. I

specifically wanted to attend college to help me with my goal of becoming an international business entrepreneur.”



CHECKLIST: FINISHING YOUR DEGREE

- ☐ Create a plan to graduate on time
- ☐ Make school a priority
- ☐ Set goals and manage your time
- ☐ Ask for help if you need it
- ☐ File a FAFSA every year
- ☐ Apply for scholarships every year
- ☐ Look for internship opportunities

Resources

Missouri Department of Economic Development

ded.mo.gov

800-877-8698

ecodev@ded.mo.gov

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

dese.mo.gov

573-751-4212

High school equivalency exam — HiSet test

573-751-3504

hse@dese.mo.gov

Homeless Children and Youth Program

573-522-8763

webreplyimprfdg@dese.mo.gov

Missouri Connections

Missouriconnections.org

573-751-3500

webreplyvae@dese.mo.gov

Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation

573-751-3251

info@vr.dese.mo.gov

Veterans' Education

573-751-2571

dese.troopstoteachers@dese.mo.gov

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

dhss.mo.gov

800-891-7415

info@health.mo.gov

Primary Care Incentives

health.mo.gov/living/families/primarycare

- Health Professional State Loan Repayment Program
- Nurse Student Loan Program
- Nurse Loan Repayment Program
- Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri Loan Program (PRIMO)

Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

dhewd.mo.gov

1-800-473-6757

info@dhewd.mo.gov

Jobs.mo.gov

888-728-JOBS (5627)

Journey to College

journeytocollege.mo.gov

Missouri Department of Social Services

dss.mo.gov

800-592-6004

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/aftercare.htm

Missouri Reach

fc2sprograms.org/missouri

800-585-7115



Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb
573-751-4249
askrsb@dss.mo.gov

Midwest Student Exchange Program

msep.mhec.org
855-767-6432

A program that offers a reduced tuition rate to Missouri residents who enroll in designated academic programs at participating institutions in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Missouri National Guard

moguard.com
888-526-MONG
855-526-6664

The Missouri National Guard allows citizen-soldiers to attend college full time. Education benefits include:

- Tuition assistance
- Montgomery G.I. Bill
- Minuteman Scholarship
- Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship

MOABLE

moable.com
1-800-439-1653
team@stableaccount.com

ABLE is a tax-free savings plan for disability-related expenses giving people with special needs more independence and financial security.

MOST – Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan

missourimost.org
888-414-MOST (6678)
Most529@missourimost.org

A state-sponsored, tax-advantaged program that helps families save for college tuition and other college-related expenses.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

va.gov
888-442-4551

U.S. Department of Education

ed.gov
1-800-USA-LEARN
1-800-872-5327

Tax Benefits for Education

studentaid.gov/types/tax-benefits

Tax credits, deductions and savings plans for higher education expenses:

- The American Opportunity Credit allows you to claim up to \$2,500 per student per year for the first four years of school as the student works toward a degree or similar credential.
- The Lifetime Learning Credit allows you to claim up to \$2,000 per student per year for any college or career school tuition and fees, as well as for books, supplies, and equipment that were required for the course and had to be purchased from the school.

Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

P.O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1469 // 800-473-6757 // 573-751-3940

Fax: 573-751-6635 // dhewd.mo.gov // info@dhewd.mo.gov

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On the front: Students from eight Missouri colleges and universities. Learn more about their journey to college at journeytocollege.mo.gov.